

active membership on the boards of the Boston chapters of the Naval Academy Alumni Association, the New England Advisory Committee of Business Executives for National Security, and the Patriots Squadron of the Association of Naval Aviation.

Mr. President, as a Naval Academy graduate and former naval aviator myself, I must concede that my respect for the service and professionalism of my friend Carl may be partially accountable to the parallels between his naval career and my own, although his subsequent decision to enter the private sector perhaps demonstrated more foresight than my own choice to enter politics and make my living at public expense.

But do not take my word as evidence of Carl's exemplary service to his country. The World War II Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Vietnam Service Medal, all of which were awarded to Commander Buzzell during his naval career, stand as proof positive of his dedication to the core values that distinguish our servicemembers to the same degree today as when Carl enlisted in 1946, 1 year after victory in a most terrible war had confirmed the resilience of our ideals and the promise of the American Century.

Mr. President, Carl Buzzell lived a life whose end deeply saddens all of us who know of his loyal service to this Nation. May his legacy long stand in testament to the virtues of a life dedicated to honor, country, and family. ●

RECOGNITION OF GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize Hilary A. Holmes of Girl Scout Troop 7756. Hilary is an outstanding young woman who has received the Girl Scout Gold Award from the Nyoda Girl Scout Council in Huron, SD. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement award in U.S. Girl Scouting. This award exemplifies her outstanding feats in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

Hilary is one of just 20,000 Gold Award recipients since the creation of the program in 1980. In order to receive this award, Hilary completed the many Gold Award requirements. She earned three interest project patches: the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge. Also, she created and executed a Girl Scout Gold Award project which included service to area flood victims.

Mr. President, I feel Hilary deserves public recognition for her tremendous service to her community and her country. I offer my congratulations to her for her hard work and effort in reaching this milestone. ●

STRAIGHT-A STUDENTS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate 4th grader Dallas Julianna Smolarek, 2d grader Candice Vaughn Smolarek, and kindergartener Brandon Tyler Smolarek for their outstanding academic success in the recent school year. All three students have received straight-A report cards and are on their way to success in school and all their personal endeavors.

We all agree over the importance of a good education, and I am pleased to see such fine young students maintaining a strong desire to perform to the best of their abilities. No doubt a role model for their classmates, Dallas, Candice, and Brandon have assumed academic leadership paralleled by few others. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, congratulations to them and best wishes for their future success. ●

RETIREMENT OF PAUL W. JOHNSON AS CHIEF OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, this week marks the end of Iowa native Paul Johnson's remarkable 4-year tenure as Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the Department of Agriculture. As a long-time farmer and conservationist, Paul brought to NRCS a bold vision of private lands as a national resource to be managed in harmony with the environment.

During the past 4 years, Paul guided his agency through a major reorganization, from the Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and has shaped the agency's programs and policies to reflect this new emphasis on the conservation of all natural resources. Paul's leadership has inspired a new commitment to conservation both within USDA and across the country.

Paul's influence was obvious in the development of the landmark conservation title of the 1996 Farm Bill, which included among many important provisions the new Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. The creation and implementation of these programs under Paul's direction are hallmarks of the energy, creativity, and commitment that he brought to NRCS, and of the legacy he leaves behind.

The agency's eloquent publication, "A Geography of Hope," is a visionary statement of the NRCS mission and testimony to Paul's farm roots and passion for the land. For 23 years on his farm in Decorah, IA, Paul has raised corn, hay, and Christmas trees, and had a dairy herd and sheep.

In our home State Paul is highly regarded as an architect of environmental legislation. As a representative in the Iowa General Assembly from 1984 to 1990, he authored the Iowa

Groundwater Protection Act, the Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection Program, the Iowa Energy Efficiency Act and the Iowa Integrated Farm Management Program. For his leadership in the State he was named conservation legislator of the year by several organizations in Iowa and was named to the Iowa Conservation Hall of Fame by the Wildlife Society.

Paul holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry from the University of Michigan, where he also pursued doctoral studies in forestry. He taught forestry in Ghana for two years, and has been visiting professor of environmental policy at Luther College. Paul worked for the USDA Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest and also has studied and consulted on forestry, agriculture, environment, and energy issues in Honduras, Costa Rica, Sweden, and the former Soviet Union.

Paul served on the Board of Agriculture of the National Academy of Sciences from 1988 to 1994, where he was involved in major studies in agriculture, forestry, and conservation. He also has served as an assistant commissioner for his local soil conservation district.

Paul brings both a global perspective and a local sensibility to conservation. While I am sorry to see him leave NRCS, I look forward to his return to Iowa, where he will continue to enrich our State. I would like to extend congratulations on a job well done, and wish Paul and his wife Pat the best on their return home. ●

TRIBUTE TO SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I stand before you today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding university in my home State of Missouri, Southwest Missouri State University [SMSU]. SMSU was one of 135 schools in 42 States selected to the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll, a designation recognizing colleges and universities that emphasize character building as an integral part of the college experience.

Being the only public institution in Missouri to earn the 1997-98 honor roll distinction, SMSU is also one of the eight State-funded schools to receive the award nationwide. Schools competing for the honor roll were judged on 5 criteria and out of 2,208 4-year accredited undergraduate institutions only the top few were chosen. One of the categories where SMSU stood out was in community service. During the 1996-97 school year the SMSU campus, including the faculty and students, volunteered more than 69,500 hours.

It is an honor for the entire State of Missouri to have a university like SMSU, whose service and character-building programs have earned it this distinguished award. I commend SMSU's President, Dr. John Keiser, for his commitment to excellence and hope for continued success in the future. ●

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE CHESTER-WALLINGFORD CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Chester-Wallingford chapter of the American Red Cross. The third oldest Red Cross chapter in the United States, this organization will, in 1998, celebrate 100 years of continuous service to the community.

With 400 volunteers and 4 staff members, the Chester-Wallingford Chapter carries out the Red Cross's mission of "providing relief to victims of disasters and helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies." Following disasters, the Red Cross supplies victims with groceries, clothing, temporary housing, transportation, and medicine. Blood drives are another important initiative. Every 2 seconds, somebody needs a blood transfusion. The Chester-Wallingford chapter proudly helps satisfy this need by providing thousands of gallons of blood to area hospitals. As members of our Nation's Armed Forces serve overseas, the Red Cross facilitates communication between the soldiers and their families. Other public services provided by this organization include first aid, CPR, and swimming lessons.

The Chester-Wallingford chapter has helped soldiers and veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm in times of need. The Red Cross has provided financial assistance to servicemen and servicewomen for emergency travel, health needs, and in some cases, burial assistance. Likewise, dedicated workers and volunteers have helped many veterans settle benefit claims. Finally, the Chester-Wallingford chapter has provided numerous supportive services to patients in VA hospitals.

Mr. President, I commend the Chester-Wallingford chapter of the American Red Cross for its commitment to the people of southeastern Pennsylvania. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to the staff and volunteers as they prepare to celebrate the chapter's centennial.●

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY GALA

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today, I rise to commemorate the people of the Capital Area Transportation Authority [CATA] on the opening of the new CATA Transportation Center in Lansing, MI. Such an undertaking is the result many individuals in the community having dedicated a great portion of their time and talent toward seeing this idea become a reality. I, along with the citizens of Lansing and the surrounding communities, join in thanks for the work of CATA in offering such a tremendous public transportation service and for the ensuing impact on the quality of life for citizens in the surrounding areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Senate colleagues for their support of my request for earmarked funding for the CATA Transportation Center. In 1996, our request for \$3 million in funding was granted and, in the following year, another earmark for \$1.2 million also became a reality.

Mr. President, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, allow me to give a heartfelt thanks to those at CATA for their hard work and dedication toward making the great State of Michigan even greater.●

RECOGNIZING STONE AND THOMAS AS AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in order to recognize Stone & Thomas, an outstanding business, for its continuous service to its customers and to the State of West Virginia. Stone & Thomas has been known for its commitment to customer service since 1847. That is 16 years longer than West Virginia has been a State.

This year, Stone & Thomas celebrated 150 years in business, and its longevity is a testament to the quality of service and merchandise which they are committed to.

Mr. President, since its founding in 1847 by Jacob Thomas and Elijah Stone, this remarkable business has been owned and operated by five generations of the same family. Currently, Stone & Thomas is run by W.S. Jones, the president, chief executive officer and the great-great-grandson of Elijah Stone. Mr. Jones, like the four generations before him, has continued the creed of outstanding service which Mr. Stone and Mr. Thomas pledged themselves to. Furthermore, Mr. Jones, like those before him, has continued to improve and expand upon an already exceptional business.

All told, Stone & Thomas has employed, and continues to employ, thousands of citizens of West Virginia. They are presently responsible for over 1,500 jobs in my State, as well as several hundred jobs in Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia. And just this week, Mr. President, they celebrated the opening of another customer-friendly store in Charleston, WV, which is expected to bring work to 70 more West Virginians.

Mr. President, Stone & Thomas has accomplished so much during its 150 years in business. Because of its diligent efforts to satisfy the customer it has grown to become West Virginia's largest independent retailer, as well as one of the top 100 in the Nation.

Because of their outstanding commitment to customer service; because of their longstanding record as a fair, honest, and friendly business; and because of their superior contributions to the economies of West Virginia and three other States, I pay special tribute to Stone & Thomas.●

TRIBUTE TO MISSOURI TASK FORCE ONE

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the members of Missouri Task Force One, which this year achieved Federal designation as an FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, and in October received the Memorandum of Understanding that places them in deployable status.

What a great team. They don't call Missouri the "Show Me" State for nothing. Missouri Task Force One began as 1 of more than 150 applicants. They coordinated, cajoled, planned, "recruited"—a euphemism for the arm-twisting for which they've become famous—begged, borrowed, purchased, trained, and triumphed. What was only a dream 5 years ago became a reality this year.

This team, its members and equipment underwent a rigorous evaluation including a full-blown, onsite inspection from technical experts in search and rescue. They scored the highest in the Nation, and clobbered the competition. I know this may be a sore subject with some of my colleagues in the Senate, but the numbers do not lie.

Missouri Task Force One was head and shoulders above the next-highest applicant for new teams and scored ahead of already-designated teams as well. This is one of the most exciting, dedicated groups of volunteers I have ever seen. They earned this designation in every category evaluated, from the quality of the team members to their excellent equipment.

The country won when Missouri Task Force One achieved their designation. Some of us have learned the very hard way that disasters can happen any time, anywhere. I rest easier knowing that the Midwest now has access to the Federal search and rescue teams once concentrated on the east and west coasts. I am honored to have the privilege of getting to know some of the members of Missouri Task Force One, who take the time from their "day jobs" and their families to train, take risks, pack, unpack, and train some more; for a nightmare we all hope will never happen but for which we must be prepared.●

TROY COMMUNITY COALITION

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute and express my heartfelt thanks to those who have made the Troy Community Coalition for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse such a successful program. The hard work and dedication of the coalition's staff and volunteers was recently recognized by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America "Best Coalition" designation. This award recognizes drug abuse prevention organizations which have strong programs, substantive results, and community support.

The Troy Community Coalition is a non-profit organization dedicated to